

325597

To: Docket Management Facility
US Department of Transportation
400 Seventh St. SW
Washington DC 20590
attn: George Detweiler

Re: docket reference number: USCG 2005-20380 -10

Dear Sir,

Having seen whales in person and been impressed with the beauty and intelligence of these magnificent mammals, I am writing with a plea to the Coast Guard to please help save them!

With less than 350 individuals surviving, the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale is facing extinction unless strong measures are taken to prevent ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear, the two major factors contributing to the death of these whales. In just the past few months four whales have been killed.

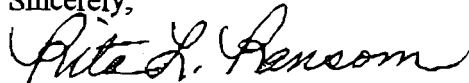
Because right whales are critically endangered and their numbers are declining, protecting them is of paramount importance, even if shifting routes results in increased costs to commercial ship traffic. This should not be difficult as the United States has both the obligation and the authority under its domestic laws to regulate ship traffic entering U.S. ports.

In its PARS analysis the Coast Guard should, at the outset, analyze *all* of the routing measures that were put forth by the National Marine Fisheries Service in its Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking last fall, not just Cape Cod Bay, as suggested in the Federal Register notice.

The Coast Guard should also consider expanded protection, beyond the times and areas suggested in the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Specifically, they should consider routing measures to protect whales within the Cape Cod Bay Critical Habitat as well as the adjacent area called "off Race Point" from December through May of each year, to protect right whales as they enter and leave this vitally important area.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Rita L. Ransom
4925 Glenarden Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

2005 APR 18 A 9:0

LAPL OF INFORMATION
DOCKETS